

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 NRC-05 NASA-01 HEW-02

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SUBJECT: US/MEXICO COOPERATION

1. SCICOUNSELOR MET ON JAN. 6 WITH CONACYT DIRECTOR GENERAL GERARDO BUENO-ZIRION, PRINCIPAL CONACYT STAFF, AND MEX SCICOUNS INUS, EDMUNDO DE ALBA FOR TOUR D'HORIZON OF US/MEXICAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WHILE SOME PROBLEMS EXIST, ARRANGMENTS ARE IN GENERAL SATISFACTORY ALTHOUGH THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF COOPERATION IN FIELDS OUTSIDE OF NSF RESPONSIBILITIES. BUENO SUGGESTS (A) PRINCIPAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES IN EACH COUNTRY PREPARE INVENTORY OF ONGOING COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AND PROJECTS SUSCEPTIBLE TO US/MEXICAN COOPERATION; (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF PRINCIPAL RESEARCH AGENCIES OF EACH COUNTRY MEET IN LATE APRIL TO DISCUSS AREAS OF COOPERATION BASED ON INVENTORIES AND PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MIXED COMMISSION; AND (C) MIXED COMMISSION MEETING BE SET UP FOR JUNE TO REVIEW SCOPE OF COOPERATION AND PROGRAM FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. HE NOTED MIXED COMMISSION MET IN JUNE 1974 AND HAD AGREED TO MEET BIENNIALY.

2. NBS. CONACYT IS ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND COOPERATION DEVELOPED EARLIER WITH DR. ROBERTS WHILE NBS DIRECTOR. MEXICANS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ASSIGNING TRAINEES, AS WELL AS ADVANCED RESEARCHERS, TO NBS PROJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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3. ERDA: MEXICAN

INTERESTED IN BROADENING ERDA-INEN
COOPERATION IN ENERGY R&D, MINERAL RESOURCES
EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, AND PLANT OPERATION.
HIGHEST PRIORITY ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS IN MEXICO ARE,
IN ORDER, NUCLEAR, GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR.

4. NRC: MEXICO GREATLY INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR SAFETY
COOPERATION.

5. NASA. MEXICAN BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD GET REMOTE
SENSING DATA FROM NASA MORE EASILY BILATERALLY THAN
THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND PREFER, IN THIS
FIELD, TO DEAL WITH US BILATERALLY. CAN THIS BE
ARRANGED?

6. HEW, AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR: CONACYT GIVES HIGH
PRIORITY TO FIELDS OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, MEDICINE
AND MINERAL RESOURCES AND WOULD LIKE COOPERATE WITH
THESE AGENCIES IN THESE AND RELATED FIELDS.

7 PROBLEM AREAS: BECAUSE OF APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS AND UTUAL GOOD WILL, THE PROBLEM AREAS
AND FEW. THOSE DISCUSSED WERE:

A. SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIOS - SEA, LAND AND OVER-
FLIGHTS. IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNSELOR COMPLAINT THAT
US REQUESTS FREQUENTLY WENT UNANSWERED OR RECEIVED
NEGATIVE REPLIES, CONACYT NOTED THAT REQUEST FOR
PERMISSIONS DID NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR THOROUGH
MEXICAN REVIEW OF PROPOSALS. MEXICANS GENERALLY WANT
TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPEDITIONS WHERE FEASIBLE AND
PREFERABLY TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO INTEGRATE WITH THEIR
OWN RESEARCH PLANS. FURTHERMORE, MEXICANS COMPLAIN
THAT FREQUENTLY RESULTS OF RESEARCH DO NOT GET TRANS-
MITTED TO MEXICO FOLLOWING EXPEDITIO. THEY WOULD LIKE
TO SET UP SOME JOINT PROGRAMS INVOLVING US AND MEXICAN
INSTITUTIONS IN ADVANCE OF AN EXPEDITION WHERE
APPROPRIATE.

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B. VISAS FOR US SCIENTISTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR
IMPORTATION OF US SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT. MEXICANS STATE
THAT THEY NEED MUCH MORE TIME AND PLANNING IN ADVANCE TO
PERMIT THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO GET SCIENTISTS AND
EQUIPMENT CLEARED FOR ENTRY. THEY ALSO NOTE THAT US
SCIENTISTS COME TO DO RESEARCH IN MEXICO WITH
TOURIST VISAS AND THIS POSES PROBLEMS FOR THE RECEIVING
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.

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